

April 8, 2013

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

RE: In the Matter of: Nomination for the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Montana Telehealth Alliance wishes to support the National Rural Health Resource Center and National Rural Health Association nomination of Kipman Smith, Executive Director of the Health Information Exchange of Montana ("HIEM"), to serve on the board of directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") Board of Directors. Mr. Smith is being nominated to represent rural health care providers and has over 25 years of experience working in the health care industry in Montana, including most recently the successful deployment of a broadband network funded by federal universal service funds in a remote, rural Montana region.

Mr. Smith has worked extensively with rural Critical Access Hospitals, certified rural health clinics and federally funded Community Health Centers during his career. Most recently, through his leadership with the HIEM he has focused on adoption of electronic health records, health information exchange and shared telehealth/ telemedicine services. Mr. Smith's efforts have led Western Montana forward in regard to a sustainable network infrastructure capable of supporting these healthcare initiatives in the region. Specific to Montana Telehealth Alliance, Mr. Smith has served on our board for a number of years and continually offers valuable insight and support.

Montana Telehealth Alliance believes it is important for the perspective of the relatively small, rural and frontier health providers such as those served by the HIEM to be represented on the USAC Board of Directors. Montana Telehealth Alliance believes Mr. Smith is uniquely qualified and capable to fulfill this role. We see him as a valuable asset and addition to the USAC board of directors.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kevin Rosenjack
President
Montana Telehealth Alliance